

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ESTABLISHED APRIL 15, 1870

WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Facts About Syphilis

"Four-fifths of the infections with syphilis found in 15,090 patients chosen at random from New York City Clinic were traceable to prostitutes, states Dr. Walter Clarke. Unmarried men attributed 87 per cent of their infections to prostitutes, married men 58 per cent of theirs.

"Among married men, only one infection in seventy was claimed to have been acquired from the patient's wife."

* * * * *

"How often is the patient with syphilis found early enough to be certain of cure? Fifty-five of 15,090 patients chosen at random from the New York City Clinic had had evidence of a chancre. Only 6 per cent came under treatment in the clinic at this time, and fewer than a quarter of these were women."

"How important are 'accidental' infections with syphilis? Of 971 chancres found among 15,090 patients chosen at random from the syphilis clinic of the New York City Department of Health, 94 per cent were in the usual site. Among the women patients, however, a quarter of the chancres found were on the lips or other extragenital skin areas."

"What does the doctor know about syphilis? Two thousand one hundred fifteen questions sent to Dr. John H. Stocks, largely by physicians, during a ten year period suggest that general interest in syphilis among doctors has greatly increased. 'While

there were occasionally positively shocking evidences of medical inadequacy,' says Dr. Stokes, 'the level of inquiry was surprisingly high, especially considering the relatively unsatisfactory teaching of syphilis in medical schools during the past 25 years'."

Surprising ignorance as to fundamental facts about syphilis was sometimes shown. There were doctors who apparently did not know that:

"'Early syphilis and its control is more important in the public interest than latent and late non-infectious syphilis.'

"'Treatment of syphilis in the pregnant woman (is) a critically important preventive field.'

"'Much trouble with serologic results under treatment comes from rest periods, lapse, irregularity in early treatment.'

"'Most skin and systemic reactions are preventable by vigilance.'

"'Late congenital syphilitics are practically non-infectious.'

"'The syphilitic father can not infect the child directly.'

"'The congenitally syphilitic woman can not infect her child; third generation syphilis is one of the rarest of established circumstances.

"'A syphilitic woman, even with a fixed positive blood test, can give birth to a healthy child if treated with neoarsphenamine and bismuth during preg-

nancy, beginning preferably by the fifth month. An arsphenamine is essential in such treatment.'

"Some of the least frequently asked questions 'all deserve far more interest and inquiry than they received between 1928 and 1938. Among them are included several critical preventive fields; tracing of contacts, modes of transmission, syphilophobia, transfusion, and darkfield use'."—Digests from May, 1940, Venereal Disease Intelligence.

SAN DIEGO ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

The report of the Department of Public Health for the city of San Diego for the calendar year 1939 has been issued by Dr. Alex M. Lesem, Director of Public Health. The estimated death rate for residents of San Diego in 1939 was 9.4, persons who have lived in the city for one year or more having been classified as residents. The estimated population of the city as of December, 1939, is 210,000.

Among the important activities undertaken by the department last year are: general sanitation, mosquito control, rodent control, housing inspection, meat and dairy inspection, food inspection including food sanitation, communicable disease control including immunization, care of the tuberculous, prenatal and preschool child hygiene, public health nursing, maternal care, child care, health education, venereal disease control, laboratory work and control of animals.

PSITTACOSIS CONTROL

During the month of April 243 interstate shipping certificates were issued for 2,618 shell parrakeets and 500 larger psittacine birds. Forty-eight aviaries were inspected.

As a continuation of the investigation started during February following a fatal case of psittacosis in Idaho traced to shell parrakeets, cockatiels, spectacled parrots, red rumps, rosellas in the pet shop from which the parrakeets had been shipped to Idaho, were proven by animal inoculation to be infected with psittacosis. The distribution of the infection was widespread throughout the aviary. The owner has destroyed all psittacine birds in his possession and has thoroughly cleaned and disinfected his premises.

Twenty per cent of the stock of parrakeets in each of the breeding aviaries represented by code numbers found on the shell parrakeets in the pet shop, were also tested and these tests were in each instance negative. Our suspicions were confirmed: i.e., that the infection was probably introduced into this pet shop by larger psittacine birds imported into California.

HIGHLIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATION

1850-1859—

Dr. Thomas M. Logan arrived in Sacramento to practice medicine. In 1856, together with Dr. E. S. Cooper, he issued call for organization of State Medical Society. Conducted correspondence with medical men and received reports of communicable diseases. As chairman of committee on medical topography of the A.M.A. (organized 1856) wrote reports on such diseases. California Medical Society went into eclipse in 1860.

1860-1869—

Dr. Logan was practicing in Sacramento, writing on public health subjects for medical journals, active on Sacramento City Board of Health, of which he was Secretary.

1870-1879—

State Board of Health established April 15, 1870 with Dr. Henry Gibbons, President, Dr. T. M. Logan, Secretary. Dr. Logan made President of the State Medical Society, reorganized in 1870.

In 1871 Logan as chairman of committee of A.M.A. on National Health Council proposed a National Sanitary Bureau in federal government. A member of this committee was appointed from each state. Interest aroused in this proposal led directly to organization of American Public Health Association in 1873. Dr. Logan elected President of A.M.A. in 1874.

Upon death of Dr. Logan in February, 1876, Dr. F. W. Hatch, Sr., appointed Secretary of State Board of Health.

1880-1889—

Dr. Hatch died in 1884, succeeded by Dr. Gerard G. Tyrrell, who was succeeded in 1891 by Dr. J. R. Laine.

1890-1899—

Dr. Laine succeeded in 1898 by Dr. W. P. Matthews. Rabies first appeared in California in 1899.

1900-1909—

Plague first appeared in United States in 1900, in San Francisco.

1902 Dr. N. K. Foster appointed Secretary of the Board.

1905 Bureau of Vital Statistics established by law.

1905 Hygienic Laboratory established.

1907 Bureau of Foods and Drugs established.

1909 Mosquito and malaria surveys started and local control instituted.

1909 Dr. Foster resigned.

1910-1919—

1910 Dr. Wm. F. Snow appointed Secretary of the Board.

1911 State Tuberculosis Commission appointed.

1910-1919—Continued

- 1913 Morbidity reporting began on statewide basis.
- 1913 Sanitary inspections by state inaugurated.
- 1915 Dr. W. A. Sawyer appointed Secretary.
- 1915 Bureau of Tuberculosis established.
- 1915 Bureau of Sanitary Engineering established.
- 1917 Bureau of Venereal Diseases established.
- 1917 Dr. W. H. Kellogg appointed Secretary.
- 1918 Influenza pandemic.
- 1919 Bureau of Child Hygiene established.
- 1919 Bubonic plague in Oakland.

1920-1929—

- 1920 Dr. W. M. Dickie appointed Secretary.
- 1922 Bureau of Epidemiology established.
- 1922 Botulism from California commercially packed products.
- 1924-25
Plague in Los Angeles.
- 1925 Bureau of Cannery Inspection established.
- 1927 Crippled Child Act passed.
- 1929 State Department of Public Health established under reorganization of state government.

DEATHS BY MAJOR CAUSES

By major causes, deaths in 1939 in California may be classified as follows: typhoid fever, 45; malaria, 0; smallpox, 2; measles, 64; scarlet fever, 30; whooping cough, 45; diphtheria, 59; influenza, 234; dysentery, 133; epidemic poliomyelitis, 77; encephalitis, 30; meningococcus meningitis, 29; tuberculosis of the lungs, 3,497; tuberculosis, other forms, 409; venereal diseases, 814; other general epidemic diseases, 157; cancer, 9,652; general diseases, 3,274; diseases of the nervous system, 6,931; circulatory system, 25,703; pneumonia, 3,063; the respiratory diseases, 645; diarrhea and enteritis under one year, 608; diarrhea and enteritis two years and over, 131; digestive system, 4,160; nephritis, 4,699; other non-venereal genito-urinary, 1,025; puerperal, 314; skin, 109; bones, 80; malformations, 566; early infancy, 2,206; senility, 155; suicide, 1,650; other external causes, 6,421; ill defined and unknown, 66.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS ARE GOOD

Communicable diseases are not unduly prevalent at this season. The reporting of influenza shows a slight increase, but this is due to the receipt of late reports. Influenza is not unduly prevalent at this time.

CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION

A Conference on School Health Education sponsored by the State Departments of Education and Public Health will be conducted by the School of Education in connection with the Summer Session of the University of California. Dr. Mayhew Derryberry, Chief of Health Education Studies, National Institute of Health, United States Public Health Service, and instructor in the Summer Session will be in charge.

Dates of the conference are July 22 to 25, inclusive. The program is planned to be useful to educators and to workers in public health. Lectures and discussions will be supplemented by showings of new motion pictures, exhibits of educational materials, and field trips to child health conferences, clinics, public health and research laboratories and other places of interest.

Dr. Derryberry, assisted by a panel of teachers and administrators, will conduct discussions on problems which arise in introducing units of health instruction in other courses, on values and limitations of special hygiene courses, and on the evaluation of school health education.

Other experts in the fields of education and public health will deal with services and materials available to California schools from federal and local sources, with the measures being taken for control of communicable diseases, and with public services available for handicapped children.

There will be no registration fee.

A limited number of applications for conference membership will be accepted, preference being given to those carrying some responsibility for school health service or instruction.

For further information and registration, write Conference on School Health Education, Haviland Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California.

FOOD POISONING REPORTS

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred last month among individuals who ate dinner in a resort hotel. The incident was not reported until after several days had elapsed making it impossible to conduct an investigation. Since similar outbreaks had occurred in the same hotel previously, definite instructions relative to the report of such outbreaks were given. Another food poisoning outbreak in a restaurant involved 11 patients who ate commercially canned ham which had been opened the day before. Examination of the product revealed a toxin producing staphylococcus organism.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for the Following Diseases for the Week
Ending May 11, 1940

Chickenpox

641 cases: Alameda County 12, Alameda 15, Berkeley 2, Hayward 4, Oakland 33, San Leandro 3, Contra Costa County 2, Concord 2, Richmond 3, Fresno County 19, Fresno 22, Humboldt County 1, Imperial County 3, Kern County 8, Hanford 11, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 65, Alhambra 12, Compton 3, Culver City 1, El Monte 3, Glendale 16, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 23, Los Angeles 88, Pasadena 4, San Gabriel 8, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 2, Torrance 2, Lynwood 4, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 1, Madera County 6, Monterey County 6, Calistoga 1, Nevada City 13, Orange County 26, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 5, La Habra 1, Laguna Beach 3, Tustin 1, Blythe 7, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 2, Chula Vista 1, La Mesa 1, San Diego 14, San Francisco 59, San Joaquin County 3, Manteca 5, Stockton 7, Paso Robles 2, Burlingame 1, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 1, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara County 4, Palo Alto 8, San Jose 3, Sunnyvale 1, Redding 1, Solano County 1, Vallejo 8, Sonoma County 9, Santa Rosa 1, Modesto 5, Sutter County 1, Yuba City 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 16, Exeter 1, Yolo County 5, Marysville 3.

Diphtheria

17 cases: Oakland 1, Culver City 1, Los Angeles 7, Hawthorne 1, Sacramento 5, Colton 1, Stockton 1.

German Measles

16 cases: Fresno County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 3, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, San Diego County 1, La Mesa 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Burlingame 1, Stanislaus County 1, Visalia 2.

Influenza

65 cases: El Cerrito 1, Martinez 1, Fresno County 4, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 7, South Gate 1, San Francisco 4, Sonoma County 39.

Malaria

2 cases: Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1.

Measles

404 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 9, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 24, Fresno 14, Imperial County 4, Brawley 1, Calexico 1, El Centro 1, Kern County 55, Bakersfield 2, Tehachapi 1, Hanford 6, Lassen County 1, Susanville 2, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 3, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 19, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, Sierra Madre 1, Madera County 12, Belvedere 1, Merced County 1, Merced 1, Monterey County 7, Monterey 1, Orange County 28, Santa Ana 4, Placentia 1, Elsinore 1, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 25, Chula Vista 4, National City 1, San Diego 44, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 6, Lodi 1, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo 9, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 3, San Jose 1, Siskiyou County 18, Solano County 2, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 11, Modesto 16, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 2, Visalia 1, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 8, Winters 17, Woodland 1.

Mumps

486 cases: Alameda County 4, Alameda 6, Berkeley 4, Oakland 19, Richmond 1, Fresno County 24, Glenn County 1, Kern County 13, Delano 1, Corcoran 1, Hanford 4, Los Angeles County 58, Burbank 1, Compton 1, Glendale 27, Long Beach 57, Los Angeles 32, Monrovia 3, Pomona 5, Vernon 1, Whittier 1, Signal Hill 2, Gardena 1, Madera County 3, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, Orange County 13, Anaheim 6, Brea 1, Fullerton 15, Orange 1, Santa Ana 4, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 14, San Francisco 40, San Joaquin County 7, Manteca 6, Stockton 5, Tracy 2, San Luis Obispo County 7, Paso Robles 19, San Mateo County 2, Burlingame 1, Redwood City 5, San Mateo 2, South San Francisco 1, San Carlos 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Maria 6, Santa Clara County 4, Mountain View 2, Palo Alto 9, San Jose 3, Siskiyou County 10, Sonoma County 2, Modesto 11, Visalia 1, Yolo County 1, Yuba County 1, Marysville 2.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

44 cases: Berkeley 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 1, Brawley 1, Los Angeles County 4, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 16, Hawthorne 1, Monterey County 4, Redlands 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, Ventura County 2, Woodland 1.

Scarlet Fever

158 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 3, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 3, Humboldt County 3, Imperial County 1, Brawley 1, El Centro 2, Imperial 1, Kern County 4, Los Angeles County 24, Burbank 2, Compton 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 24, South Pasadena 1, Torrance 1, Lynwood 2, Merced 5, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 7, Plumas County 2, Riverside County 6, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 3, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 3, La Mesa 1, National

City 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 8, San Joaquin County 3, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Sonoma County 2, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 3, Ventura 1, Ojai 2, Yolo County 10, Winters 1, Riverside 4, California 1.*

Smallpox

3 cases: Butte County 2, Chico 1.

Typhoid Fever

9 cases: Imperial County 4, El Centro 2, Calipatria 1, Los Angeles County 2.

Whooping Cough

521 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 13, San Leandro 1, Colusa County 1, Fresno County 22, Fresno 7, Kern County 58, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 59, Alhambra 1, Avalon 10, Burbank 4, Compton 3, El Monte 2, Glendale 4, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 43, Pasadena 3, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 3, San Marino 1, Whittier 1, Lynwood 7, South Gate 1, Gustine 5, Monterey County 21, Placentia 1, Riverside County 11, Perris 3, Sacramento 19, San Bernardino County 2, Ontario 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 7, San Francisco 19, San Joaquin County 23, Lodi 2, Manteca 1, Stockton 3, Tracy 6, Paso Robles 2, Daly City 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 8, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 12, Palo Alto 14, San Jose 12, Santa Cruz County 16, Santa Cruz 2, Siskiyou County 2, Vacaville 3, Sonoma County 12, Petaluma 1, Santa Rosa 10, Stanislaus County 11, Modesto 12, Tulare County 6, Lindsay 3, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 2, Yuba County 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

3 cases: Los Angeles County 1, San Bernardino County 2.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

5 cases: Azusa 1, Los Angeles 3, Sonoma County 1.

Pellagra

4 cases: Brawley 1, Los Angeles 1, San Clemente 1, Hollister 1.

Poliomyelitis

5 cases: Albany 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Tehama County 1.

Tetanus

One case: Anaheim.

Trachoma

2 cases: Fresno County 1, San Mateo 1.

Food Poisoning

11 cases: Kern County 6, Bakersfield 2, Ontario 3.

Undulant Fever

7 cases: Kern County 2, Susanville 1, Los Angeles County 1, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Nevada County 1.

Tularemia

2 cases: San Bernardino County 1, Ventura County 1.

Coccidioides Granuloma

One case: Fresno.

Septic Sore Throat

One case: Kern County.

Epilepsy

43 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 5, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 20, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Napa County 1, Orange County 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 2, Palo Alto 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Sonoma County 3, Santa Rosa 1.

Rabies (Animal)

13 cases: Butte County 1, Imperial County 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 2, Pacific Grove 1, San Francisco 1, San Mateo County 2, San Bruno 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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